

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 DPW-01 IO-03 AID-10

PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /080 W  
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R 171155 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3308

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10838

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON DAO SGN USSAG DTD 17 JUN FROM CAN THO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 467

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652:

GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 17, 1973

SUMMARY: ALLEGED VC/ NVA INCIDENTS FELL TO 66 ON THE  
FIRST FULL DAY OF CEASEFIRE II. CHUONG THIEN REPORTED  
HEAVY FILPTING AND BA MUYEN ARTILLERY HARASSED  
THE VC , BUT MOST OTHER DELTA PROVINCES EXPERIENCED WANING  
MILITARY ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: ( A) MR IV CLAIMED 66 VC/ NVA  
CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JUNE 16, THE FIRST FULL DAY OF  
CEASEFIRE II. THERE WERE EIGHT GROUND ASSAULTS, 40  
ATTACKS BY FIRE, 15 HARASSMENTS, AND THREE INFILTRATIONS  
BY VC UNITS INTO GVN- CONTROLLED HAMLETS. THE LAST  
INDICATOR IS SIGNIFICANT. THE VC/ NVA HAVE NOT YET TRIED TO TAKE  
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AND HOLD ANY CENTERS OF POPULATION AS THEY ATTEMPTED AT CEASEFIRE I. THE INFILTRATION INCIDENTS WERE LIMITED OCCUPATIONS OF GVN CONTROLLED HAMLETS, DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO DISRUPT HAMLET GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL DEFENSE FORCES.

(B) THE NUMBER OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS FELL FAR SHORT OF FRIDAY'S 102, BUT MR IV BRIEFERS WERE UNWILLING TO CREDIT THEIR ENEMY WITH GOOD INTENTIONS. THEY SAID YESTERDAY'S HEAVY RAINS PROBABLY DAMPENED VC/ NVA ACTIVITY. BY OMISSION OR DESIGN, THE BRIEFERS DID NOT COMMENT ON THE NUMBER OF GVN " SECURITY OPERATIONS" FOR THE DAY. 24 RVNAF WERE KILLED AND 123 WOUNDED, WHILE THE VC/ NVA LOST 61 KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. SIX CIVILIANS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND NINE WOUNDED.

(C) MR IV BRIEFERS JUNE 17 SAID WELL OVER HALF THE JUNE 16 INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN CHUONG THIEN. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING OCCURRED IN CONTESTED LONG MY DISTRICT WITH A SERIES OF VC/ NVA ASSAULTS ON RVNAF POSITIONS.

(D) ACCORDING TO A VICE CONSUL, CHAU DOC IS AS STILL AS DEATH. HE KNOWS OF NO VC/ NVA VIOLATIONS SINCE CEASEFIRE III WENT INTO EFFECT AT NOON JUNE 15. HE HAS HEARD NO OUTGOING ARTILLERY AND HAS SEEN ONLY UNARMED HELICOPTERS. ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 15, JUST BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, A QUICK SECTOR CROSS- BORDER STRIKE KILLED 13 NVA AND CAPTURED A 60 MM MORTAR. THIS OPERATION WAS IN RESPONSE TO A MORTAR ATTACK THE NIGHT BEFORE ON TINH BIEN DISTRICT TOWN.

(E) DINH TUONG IS ALSO QUIET. THERE WERE ONLY SEVEN INCIDENTS AT SECTOR LEVEL ON JUNE 16 AND NONE AT ALL DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 16/17. THE AMERICAN INTER- PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE, WHO HAS REPORTED HEAVY FIGHTING IN DINH TUONG THE PAST FEW WEEKS, CALLS THIS TOTAL " PHENOMENALLY LOW." FIVE RVNAF WERE KILLED JUNE 16 AND NINE WOUNDED. THE VC/ NVA LOST TWO KILLED IN AN ABORTED GROUND ASSAULT.

(F) AN XUYEN REPORTED SOME OUTGOING ARTILLERY THE NIGHT OF JUNE 16 BUT NONE AT ALL THE FOLLOWING MORNING. BUT THE BIG GUNS WERE AT WORK IN BAC LIEU AND BA XUYEN. BAC LIEU MAINTAINED A HIGH RATE OF HARASSING FIRE. IN BA XUYEN, RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF ARTILLERY HAVE BEEN PUT ASIDE. HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORTED OPERATIONS IN ALL EIGHT DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE. SIX FIREFIGHTS  
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JUNE 16 RESULTED IN FOUR VC DEAD AND FIVE RVNAF WOUNDED. PROVINCE CHIEF COL LIEU QUANG NGHIA TOLD A VICE CONSUL THAT MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI PERSONALLY APPROVED HIS TACTICS. ALL BA XUYEN, SAID NGHIA, IS UNDER GVN CONTROL. THEREFORE, WHEREVER THE VC SHOW THEMSELVES, THEY ARE FAIR GAME. ACCORDING

TO THE VICE CONSUL, THE VC ARE TAKING THE WORST OF IT.  
(G) GVN OPERATIONS, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY, CONTINUE  
IN VINH BINH. THE VC SEIZED A MARKET PLACE DURING  
THE EVENING OF JUNE 15 IN LONG HUU VILLAGE, LONG TOAN  
DISTRICT. PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN HUU KIEM TOLD  
THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE THREW  
THEM OUT SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

BARNES  
UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
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